E. S. L. C. Examination and Nature Study.

209. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of pupils in the last E. S. L. C. examination, who secured pass marks in Elementary Mathematics, had their average marks lowered because of Nature Study?

(2) Are the Government aware that the pupils of British India are not examined in Nature Study?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) 1,495; but 696 of these were eligible for admission to a University course although their average was reduced by Nature Study.

(2) Yes.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In view of the large number of pupils who had their average marks lowered on account of Nature Study and also in view of the fact that pupils are not examined in this subject in British India, do the Government think it absolutely necessary to have this subject as part of the syllabus for the English School Final Examinations here?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I shall enquire that of the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PAINKKAR (*Shertallai*): Have the Government any objection to give Nature Study a place with Geography in the syllabus for Form VI?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): My answer is the same for this question also.

P. W. D. Maistries in Shertallai Taluk.

210. **MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the work of maistries in that taluk;

(*b*) the length of roads now existing in that taluk;

(*c*) the number of maistries there;

(*d*) whether these maistries are paid from the sum allotted for the taluk;

(*e*) if so, how much money was spent upon the pay of these maistries in 1101; and

(*f*) whether they think it necessary to maintain so many maistries in Shertallai?

(2) If the answer to part (1) (*f*) is in the negative, will they kindly see that the number of maistries in that taluk is reduced to a minimum?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) Petty supervision in the construction and maintenance of roads, canals, bunds, bridges and buildings, collection of *Kuthakapattam* amounts, etc., and keeping and rendering accounts of stores and labour.

(*b*) Main roads, 16 miles, 5,160 ft. and village roads, 82 miles.

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